

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for reducing power consumption of a backlight lamp in a LCD (Liquid Crystal Display), comprising:
 - a power unit configured to supply power;
 - a control unit configured to receive power supplied from the power unit and output a brightness control information signal;
 - an inverter unit configured to receive the brightness control information signal from the control unit and output driving power for driving a backlight lamp; and
 - a backlight lamp configured to receive the power from the inverter unit, wherein when the LCD is turned on or a wake up operation is activated after a suspend mode, the control unit is configured to control the brightness adjustment information signal so as to be related to a brightness increase curve of the backlight lamp such that power supplied to the backlight lamp is gradually increased over time, and wherein the brightness control information signal output by the control unit comprises one of a plurality of discrete incremental level values

corresponding to discrete brightness levels, and the inverter unit outputs power to the backlight lamp at a level corresponding to the required brightness level.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising;
a memory unit configured to store control information for adjusting a brightness of a screen of a LCD.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a key input unit configured to receive input from a user for adjusting a brightness of a LCD screen.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control unit includes:

a keyboard controller unit configured to discriminate a key press state by a user and output a brightness adjustment key input signal;

a microprocessor configured to receive the brightness adjustment key input signal and select a kind of brightness adjustment information and a brightness ROM table, and output brightness control information;

a brightness adjustment information outputting unit configured to receive the brightness control information from the microprocessor and output the brightness control information signal to the inverter unit.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the brightness adjustment information outputting unit outputs a digital brightness control information signal to the inverter unit.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the digital brightness control information signal includes a voltage level of a D/A port, a PWM duty cycle signal, or a SM BUS (System Management Bus) signal.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the memory unit is further configured to store control information including a last brightness control information signal output by the control unit and the memory unit further comprises an incremental

brightness variation value setting unit configured to output a preset brightness value to the control unit.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the incremental brightness variation value setting unit sets a brightness variation value by incremental level or a variation time by incremental level according to an input by a user.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the power unit uses a power adapter or a battery as a power source and further comprises a power discrimination unit configured to discriminate between the power sources.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for saving power of a backlight lamp in a LCD (Liquid Crystal Display), comprising:

outputting a brightness control information signal to an inverter unit corresponding to a brightness information value, wherein when the LCD is turned on or a wake up operation is activated after a suspend mode, the brightness information value gradually increases over a predetermined time period in consideration of luminescent characteristics of a

backlight lamp such that power supplied to the backlight lamp is gradually increased over time;
and

outputting a constant brightness information control signal corresponding to the brightness information value after the gradually increased brightness information value reaches a preset value, wherein the brightness control information signal output to the inverter unit comprises one of a plurality of discrete incremental level values corresponding to discrete brightness levels, and the inverter unit outputs power to the backlight lamp at a level corresponding to the required brightness level.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the luminescent characteristics vary according to one or more of a thickness, length, kind of enclosed gas, and environmental temperature of the backlight lamp.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control unit controls the brightness control information signal by referring to a brightness ROM table configured based on luminescent characteristics of the backlight lamp.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the luminescent characteristics vary according to one or more of a thickness, length, kind of enclosed gas, and environmental temperature of the backlight lamp.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the control information includes the brightness control information signal.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the control information further includes a brightness level information increment value and a variation time value.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the memory unit stores the control information when the backlight lamp is turned off or dimmed.

19. (Previously Presented) A LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) comprising the apparatus of claim 1.